

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 /088 W

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R 031700Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3763

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0839

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR SS SP MO

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA -- MARCHE VERTE

1. SOME OF THE BLOOM IS COMING OFF THE MARCHE VERTE, AT LEAST IN CASABLANCA. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE ALMOST UNANIMOUS OPTIMISM BEGAN TO FADE AS THE SIGNS MULTIPLIED THAT SPAIN MAY NOT BE QUITE READY TO WELCOME THE MARCHERS TO EL AYOUN AND CEDE THE TERRITORY TO MOROCCO. AMONG THE INFORMED BOURGEOISIE, THERE IS NOW CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS AND SPECULATION AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, REACTION IS SETTING IN AGAINST THE HEAVY DEMANDS BEING MADE ON BUSINESSMEN, SHIPKEEPERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR DONATIONS AND MONEY CONTRIBUTIONS. AS THE ECONOMIC CENTER, CASA HAS BEEN HARD HIT BY THE LOGISTIC DEMANDS OF THE MARCH. THERE ARE DOZENS OF STORIES OF TRUCKS DESCENDING ON SHOPS, CLEANING THEM OUT, AND AT BEST LEAVING A SIGNED RECEIPT--WHICH NO PATRIOTIC MERCHANT WILL EVER DARE TRY TO COLLECT. LARGER BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS HAVE HAD TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CASH CONTRIBUTIONS. NOW, ALSO, THEY MUST LEVY FOR UP TO FIVE DAYS PAY ON THEIR

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EMPLOYEES AS A DONATION, AND SOME OF THEM FEAR SERIOUS RESISTANCE

AMONG EMPLOYEES. THERE IS, THEREFORE, A FAIR AMOUNT OF DIS-
ENCHANTMENT GROWING AS THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PRICE
OF THE MARCH BECOMES MORE TANGIBLE AND PAINFUL.

3. DOCKS IN THE PORT ARE REPORTED JAMMED, WITH NO TRANSPORT
TO REMOVE GOODS AND SHIPS, IN CONSEQUENCE, STANDING OFF THE PORT
UNABLE TO DISCHARGE. ANTICIPATED SHORTAGE OF BUSES AND
COMMERCIAL TRUCKS, HOWEVER, WITH CONSEQUENT FOOD SHORTAGES,
HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED. MARKETS ARE WELL SUPPLIED AND PRICES
NO RISING EXCESSIVELY.
BRUBECK

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